

Nothing to Fear

This is the 57th installment of a multi-part series taken from Bob DuPuy's book, *Nothing to Fear: The Story of Seventh-day Adventism in the Dakotas,* published in 1983.

Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 2

Walker did work west of the river during 1907 and early 1908 visiting scattered church members at Hanover (Oliver County), and Glen Ullin (Morton County), visiting the new churches at Beach and Lemmon, and planning visits to Driscoll (Burleigh County), Heart (Stark County) and to Hazelton (Emmons County) on the eastern side of the Missouri.¹⁰

Scandinavian work during this period was centered at Velva (McHenry County) where N.M. and Bertha Jorgensen (he an ordained minister, she a licensed minister) settled and carried on a continuous evangelistic work assisted for a time by M.S. Reppe. By the fall of 1907, the Jorgensens were conducting a Sabbath School for ten interested persons.¹¹ The Wheelock Scandinavian Church meanwhile, enjoyed the services of A.O. Burrill who, while visiting his son at Wheelock, held meetings and added eighteen new members to the church.¹²

Among the Germans, a church was organized in 1907 at Roosevelt south of Heaton (Wells County) through the efforts of lay members of the Bowdon Church, and at Goodrich (Sheridan County) following evangelistic endeavors by Carl Leer.¹³ By the close of 1907, organized German companies were located at Munich (Cavalier County) and at Upham (McHenry County), three families of German members had settled at Skogmo (Sheridan County), and work had been begun in Gackle (Logan County) and at Kulm.¹⁴

The Lincoln Valley German Church operated two church schools in 1907, one in the country and the other just fifteen yards from the Lincoln store. J.F. Richert taught the twenty-five scholars at Lincoln store; H.H. Koehn's similar number of students at the country school ranged in age from six to twenty years old. At the close of the two-and-a-half-month term, the two schools joined for closing exercises, conducted at the church building, consisting of reviews in Bible, spelling, and arithmetic, and musical selections by students.¹⁵

By the time of the annual Conference Session, December 25-29, 1907, two-thirds of North Dakota's 846 Seventh-day Adventists were German, half of whom could not speak or understand English. But in spite of this majority, and the fact that the Germans were, generally speaking, more prosperous than the English-speaking or Scandinavian believers, the latter two groups were bearing the major part of the financial load of the support of the conference.¹⁶

The failure of the Germans to return a full and faithful tithe was at least partly the result of the language barrier between them and the leadership of the conference. In addition, as far back as their days in Russia, doctrinal disputes among the Germans, even among Sabbath-keeping groups, had often centered on the matter of tithing. Unscrupulous men periodically exploited these differences and the language barriers to sow seeds of discontent against the organization and its leadership, often seeking to divert tithe for their own use. Although comparatively few people actually followed such "false shepherds", they contributed to an overall climate which adversely affected the stewardship of the German believers.¹⁷

In consultation with the 1907 Annual Session's Nominating Committee, John Walker stepped down from the conference presidency in favor of C.J. Kunkel, a German then serving as vice-president of the Manitoba Conference. Walker became vice-president of the North Dakota Conference and director of District No. 7, all areas west of the Missouri.¹⁸

Language barriers also created problems in the educational program of the youthful conference as we have seen. Of North Dakota's 26 churches in 1907, only two operated elementary schools. The German churches were, potentially, prime territory for church schools with their stable population and large numbers of children. It was difficult in those early years, however, to find qualified, bi-lingual teachers, or indeed, even a conference educational secretary proficient in both English and German; the position was, apparently, left vacant for several years before John F. Simon assumed the duties early in 1908.¹⁹

Simon's educational leadership soon began to pay off; by the time he became Sheyenne River Academy's principal in the fall of the next year, two German church schools, both in the Bowdon area were preparing to open, and under Simon's successors, the German wing of the church school work became dominant.²⁰ 10. Ibid., December 3, 1907, 4; February 25, 1908, 3.

11. Ibid., August 6, 1907, 3,4; September 3, 1907, 3,4; October 15, 1907, 6; North Dakota Conference Session Record Book, op. cit. I, 86.

12. Northern Union Reaper, October 15, 1907, 6; December 10, 1907, 4; January 14, 1908, 4.

13. Ibid., September 3, 1907, 3; August 6, 1907, 4,5; February 18, 1908, 4.

14. *Ibid.*, January 14, 1908, 4; January 21, 1908, 4; August 13, 1907, 7; See Chapter 8 of this book for details of the beginning of the work in Kulm.

15. Ibid., April 2, 1907, 4; May 28, 1907, 6; June 11, 1907, 5.

16. Ibid., January 14, 1908, 3; January 7, 1908, 2,3.

17. Ibid., See also the discussions in Chapters 6 and 8 and Appendix A of this book.

18. Ibid., January 14, 1908, 3,4.

19. Ibid., April 28, 1908, 2.

20. Ibid., March 30, 1909, 5.

Next time from *Nothing to Fear:* Chapter 12: The Lord Gave Freedom - Part 3 by Robert K. DuPuy

If you are a new subscriber or have missed the earlier installments, you can find all issues of the *Dakota Dispatch* on our website:

https://www.dakotaadventist.org/communiques/dakota-dispatch

The first installment of Nothing to Fear starts in the October 22, 2020, issue.



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Sonnets of Creation Part 2 of 7

The sparkling water was divided, In the very middle God set the sky. The burning blue vaults were ignited With the same color that drips when we cry.

A sapphire blue sea stretched thin below, Made the sky seem a crisp delirium. There wasn't a sound, not even hello, But God heard an outcry, a deep full thrum.

This bright planet just begged for something new. A breath and a being to walk on the earth. Something that would see the differing blue. Something that would bring joy, laughter, and mirth.

So on the second day God made heaven, And would continue until day seven.

You Are Invited

You are invited to attend the Fargo Regional on April 29, 2023. The day will start with Sabbath School at 10:00a and will conclude with a light supper. It will be held at the Fargo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fargo, North Dakota.



Record Land Sale

BISMARCK — A recent land auction in central North Dakota very likely set a mark for the highest valued irrigated land in the state.

The auction for a pair of parcels at the intersection of Highway 1804 and 149th Ave. NW — near the Missouri River north of Bismarck — took place Tuesday, March 28. The auction was held by Moorhead-based Pifer's with in-person bidding taking place at the Ramada by Wyndham in Bismarck.

The second of the two parcels was the marquee attraction for the auction, which drew a hearty crowd of 39 registered online bidders in addition to 23 assembled at the Ramada, Pifer's co-founder Kevin Pifer told The Forum. The parcel consisted of 183 acres of cropland, with 130 of those acres irrigated by a pipeline feeding directly

from the Missouri River.

In total, the full parcel fetched \$8,000 per acre at auction, which Pifer told The Forum is "likely" an all-time high for irrigated farmland in central North Dakota. The first, non-irrigated parcel at the auction brought in \$5,250 per acre.

Referencing the non-irrigated parcel's sale price, Pifer was able to parse the numbers further. By disregarding the less valuable, non-irrigated land from the full 183 acre parcel, Pifer estimated the irrigated portion alone was worth "a little over" \$10,000, which would also "likely" be a statewide record.



parcel of land in Burleigh County is irrigated by a direct pipeline from the nearby ouri River. Pifer's co-founder and president Kevin Pifer believed its unique qualitie helped steer the sale price into "likely" record territory. Contributed / Pifer's

Even if the sale price is not an official record, it was a memorable one for Pifer, who said he does not recall seeing a value that high. "We've never sold irrigated land for \$10,000 an acre. Irrigated land usually brings \$7,000 or \$8,000," he said. "That's a big number."

The land was put up for auction by the Dakota Conference of Seventh Day Adventists. The organization reported to its members via Facebook that the auction raised \$2 million. The majority of those proceeds are slated to be placed in an "interest-bearing endowment fund."

Pifer, who himself served as the auctioneer for the sale, cited four contributing factors which he felt drove up the price.

Firstly, Pifer said that it is "rare" for irrigated land to hit the market in North Dakota. "Even though we have 23 million acres of cropland in North Dakota, very little of it is actually irrigated," he remarked.

Irrigated land requires a perfected irrigation permit from the North Dakota Water Commission. Securing a permit is "normally a very long process," Pifer said. State laws are designed to protect existing permit-holders, he continued, noting that some aguifer wait lists can stretch 15 or 20 years.

Pifer also pointed to the plot's "exceptional" loam soil for steering the price upwards. The full parcel had a weighted productivity index, which ranges from 0 to 100 with 50 being the average, of 85.8. For comparison, Pifer said soil in the farm-rich Red River Valley typically scores between 82 and 85 on the index. "When you get productivity indexes in central North Dakota in the 92, 83 and average 85.8 (range), those are highly-productive soils," Pifer explained.

The parcel's loam soil is ideal for a broad range of crops, including corn, soybeans, potatoes and even dry edible beans, Pifer said. Being hospitable to various crops allows farmers to rotate crops and further improve soil health, he said.

The parcels' easy access to Highway 1804, a paved roadway, also increased the land's value, Pifer believed. While it is located just 13 miles north of Bismarck, Pifer felt the proximity to the capital had little impact on the final price.

The auction's turnout was a sign that there is "pent-up demand" for such land in central North Dakota. It didn't hurt that area farmers weren't shy about starting a bidding war, either. "That area is very competitive," Pifer commented. "There's a lot of very good farmers that are very competitive with one another whenever land like this comes up for sale or even for lease."

The recent auction is indicative of a larger trend Pifer has observed when it comes to farmland sales. "We've seen an uptick in irrigated farmland values over the course of the last 18 to 24 months. In fact, all farmland in North Dakota has been up significantly, 25 to 30%, in the last 18 to 24 months," he said.

The land sale ultimately proved to be small but mighty. "This was a very, very good farm. It wasn't very big, but it was very good," Pifer concluded.

Article by Thomas Evanella and reprinted with permission from The Forum. Thomas has worked for The Forum for over three years and is also the host of the <u>InForum</u> Business Beat podcast. To see the original article, <u>click here</u>. Photos used with permission by Pfifer Land Sale.



Bring a Friend or Two!



Christian Education Instills Hope

What are the key ingredients for survival and success? We want to teach our students and youth to prepare them well for the future. As Christians, we agree that God is most important because He gives us wisdom and skills to use in life like determination, perseverance, or maybe we should just say grit. These life skills are what our church schools need to instill in our young people, and Brentwood Adventist Christian School is no different. Life throws us curve balls that can be unexpected and quite difficult, as most of us know. Our students in the Dakotas are learning these life lessons.

One of our students had a serious accident, but we are thankful things are not worse; she will live with the results of her accident but praises the Lord for her blessings. She says that when she feels down she listens to her favorite Christian music which helps focus her eyes back on Christ. Another student was hospitalized last year and had many different tests until his problem was discovered. Imagine dealing with this situation at such a young age! The student is now running and playing at school again and reaching out to others with his cheerful disposition as well as sharing his talent, singing praises to Jesus at church. A third grader who has struggled with completing schoolwork in the past years likes to try to help others by giving advice on how to persevere and how much better it is for him now that he is completing his work; he mentors and encourages the younger students to learn early how to be good students. We have some who come to our schools from other cultural backgrounds and have had to deal with learning a new language as well as keeping up with their current classwork. In our conference, there are some of us, as teachers, who have had serious health issues that we never envisioned facing.

What do you do? With God all things are possible, and our goal is to help our young people as well as ourselves develop relationships with God, the one with the answers to all our problems in this world. Our church schools are here to equip students with courage, bravery, and faith to face the future as the Bible characters we study about did many years ago. Thank you for your continued prayers for all our church schools.

PS: Brentwood would also like to share how excited they are about Bismarck's new Gateway to Science Museum that is now open. The students and teachers had lots of fun exploring the many STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) activities available, and the view from the windows overlooking the Missouri River is beautiful.



Article by Debra Eszler, head teacher at Brentwood Adventist Christian School in Bismarck, ND. Photos by Debra Eszler and Ron Reese, teacher at Brentwood.

Marriage Seminar APRIL 29 Location: Jamestown Seventh-day Adventist Church 1201 4th St NE Event Time Line: 11:00A - Church Service **Godly True Love** 12:30P - Potluck Lunch Marriage is a journey of love and devotion 1:30P - Seminar Registration 2:00-5:00P - Marriage Seminar that often ebbs and flows throughout the relationship with your spouse. We invite Children activities and you to join us for a marriage renewal childcare will be provided for seminar that will encourage and the entire event! strengthen that love and devotion in your marriage and most importantly in your relationship with God.

Small Town Evangelism?

We are a small church in Bowdle, South Dakota. But nowhere in Scripture does it suggest that small locations are exempt from sharing this marvelous gospel. So what should we do? It was not immediately obvious to me as the new pastor of the district.

At one church board meeting, Danielle Hughes suggested we provide a natural remedies class to our community as a way of introducing us as a group while sharing some information people might find helpful. Danielle had a family member who could teach the class, so we reserved the local community room and sent out some invitations. So far, four people have joined for the series with a supportive congregation.

At the next church board meeting, Sarah and Josh Heinrich asked if we could perhaps provide free babysitting to children aged 10 years and under here in town. They knew quite a few people in the community, and there are a lot of parents with young kids that don't get a break. While I don't think Jesus hosted free babysitting on a Thursday evening for three hours, this really did seem to fit with his mandate to notice the children, share our hope, and just simply help people.

So more invites, more personal invitations to friends at school, a little advertising on Facebook, and almost 20 kids show up to our little church each month for dinner, games, songs, and a very, very good time! Josh and Sarah make the food, prepare the games, and look after all these children. Roxanne Gill comes and holds babies and helps out, and Connie Heinrich plays with the children and cleans up their messes. I show up to help vacuum afterward.

At our last church board meeting, we dreamed of a Vacation Bible School in town and maybe an Adventurers club in the fall. Without taking an offering, funds for the Vacation Bible school came in that next Sabbath.

We still don't really know how to do evangelism in such a small rural community with such a small congregation. But if people keep coming up with ideas they are prepared to fund and do, we might not need to!



Article and photos by Pr. Stephen Eastwood, pastor of the Bowdle / Pierre church district in South Dakota.

Prayer Ministries - Monthly Prayer Emphasis

Please keep the following in your prayers for the month of April:

Theme: Breaking Ground - Soil Preparation

Pastoral Staff: Stephen Eastwood

Educational Staff: Forrest Calhoun, Delilah Treft

Field Staff: Randy Rubbert

Office Staff: Julie Brude, Mark Piotrowski, Mark Seibold, Mark Weir

Adventist Entities: Bowdle Church, Pierre Church, Potential Pierre Church School

North Central, South Dakota: Pierre - SD Capital, Mobridge, Selby, Gettysburg, Eagle Butte, Bowdle, Lemon, Tolstoy



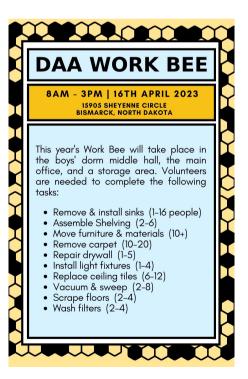
Other: Children of Military Service Men & Women

<u>Click here</u> to visit the Prayer Ministries webpage.

Please Lend a Hand on Sunday, April 16

Calling ALL handymen, handywomen, and those with skills in wiring, plumbing, carpentry. sheetrock, sweeping, and cleaning--we need you! If you can hold, carry, or just help wherever you may be needed, then please plan to join us for our 2nd annual Work Bee to be held at Dakota Adventist Academy on Sunday, April 16, from 8:00a to 3:00p. Lunch will be provided. Click here to fill out the form online, so that we can place you in a suitable area of work.

Thank you, in advance, for your kind help as we seek to help our Academy!



You Are Invited



What: Dakota Conference Women's Mini-Retreat
When: May 7, 2023, from 12:00-4:00p
Where: Lewis Hotel - Buckstop Junction, Bismarck, North Dakota
Musician: Chrysolyte Prieto
Speakers: Pastor Kisa de Bruin and Cheryl Erickson

A freewill offering will be taken to cover the lunch price. There will be an opportunity to shop at some local vendors. **Register by May 1** via text or phone call to Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger at 701.319.0103.



Dakota Youth & Young Adults

I don't know how many of you have ever had the chance to visit Northern Lights Camp in the winter and see Lake Metigoshe completely frozen over, but it is truly a beautiful thing to see. As Lynnette and I walked out onto the lake last Sabbath, it was hard for us to believe that in just two and a half months we will be sailing, wakeboarding, skiing, and swimming there! We can't wait to see our campers having fun!

Some of you may be wondering why we were up at NLC if it is completely covered in snow. In short, we went to continue working on our new dining hall facility. Over the past several years, Northern Lights Camp has had its old dining hall and kitchen torn down and replaced with a new building. For the last three summers, the camp has been able to use this building—even in its unfinished state, but each year more and more is done to help complete this amazing structure. I've had several youth directors from throughout the NAD express how amazing our kitchen is. If you haven't seen it, we hope you will check it out when you come up to drop off a camper this summer or when you come for the Spiritual Feast held there in August. Our NLC kitchen's work surfaces and equipment set it apart, and give our camp kitchen staff a leg up in preparing food in this modern and well-thought-out kitchen.

But it isn't just the kitchen that looks good. Thanks to the hard work of so many volunteers, the outside of the dining hall is completely finished. With the supervision of Scott Timothy and Larry Nordman, piece by piece the dining hall is nearing completion. And so painting the inside of the dining hall was the task that brought Lynnette, Larry, and me up to the snow-covered camp over the long Easter weekend. This past summer we noticed how the interior paint wasn't holding up too well. It had become scuffed up, and the flat paint made wiping down the walls largely ineffective. So we invested in high-quality paint that allows us to wipe down the walls and keep them looking nice and clean well into the future. The new paint paired with our beautiful windows really makes the dining hall feel bright and happy. As I finished up on the final touches of painting, Larry installed the "exit signs" and safety lights as well as prepped the ceiling for the fans that need to be installed.

One big project yet to be completed is the installation of the wood ceiling. The boards have been curing in the dining hall for a year now and are ready to find their way up onto the ceiling. Along with the ceiling, the door and window trim is also ready to be installed. It is exciting to see the different phases nearing completion! Our dining hall is an incredible resource for our camp. We need to be faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to us and use it to honor and glorify Him in the activities. Thank you to all who donate their time, talents, and treasure to our Dakota Camps Ministry. You are the backbone of camp ministry, and we are thankful for you.

Next month I will be heading down to Flag Mountain Camp. Be ready for an update



Article & photos by Ted Struntz, Dakota Conference youth director, and Lynnette Struntz, associate youth director.



Kids' Corner

This month's Craft Corner features Rachel from Wild Backyard Soaps. She teaches us how to make bath bombs, a perfect gift just in time for Mother's Day! <u>Click here</u> to watch the video.

Visit the Dakota Conference Children's Ministries YouTube channel, <u>Dakota SDA</u> <u>Kids</u>, and explore the many videos available for children.



Kelli Wasemiller is the Dakota Conference education superintendent & children's ministries coordinator.

Dakota Conference Calendar

The offering schedule is in purple. The office preaching schedule is in blue. Town Halls & Regional schedules are in green.

April -

- 15: Local Church Budget
- 15: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Aberdeen, SD (Revitalization Pt. 1)
- 15: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Cleveland, ND
- 16: DAA Community Work Bee (8a-3p)
- 20: Mid-America Union Executive Committee Meeting in Lincoln, NE (9a)
- 22: Local Church Budget
- 22: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Aberdeen, SD (Revitalization Pt. 2)
- 22: Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Minot, ND
- 22: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Mandan, ND
- 29: Dakota Challenge
- 29: Fargo Regional with Elder Mark Weir preaching
- 29: Education Superintendent Kelli Wasemiller preaching in New Home Church, ND
- 29: Marriage Seminar at Jamestown Adventist Church, ND (1:30p)
- 30: K-12 Board of Education at Conference Office (10a)

May -

- 1-5: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5-7: Men's Retreat in Medora, ND
- 6: Local Church Budget
- 6: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Ellendale, ND
- 6: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Huron, SD
- 7: Women's Mini-Retreat in Bismarck, ND (12-4p)
- 13: Disaster Relief
- 13: Elder Ted Struntz preaching in Hermosa, SD
- 13: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Watertown, SD
- 13: DAA Spring Music Concert
- 13: Ladies' Luncheon in McClusky, ND (12:30p)
- 19-21: DAA Graduation Weekend
- 20: Local Church Budget
- 20: Women's Ministries Director Paulette Bullinger preaching in Turtle Lake, ND
- 20: Pierre Church Women's Retreat (1:30p)
- 27: Dakota Challenge
- 27: ACS Director Elder Bob Forbes preaching in Spearfish, SD
- 27: Elder Mark Piotrowski preaching in Custer, SD
- 31-3: Dakota Campmeeting

For more scheduled events, please see the calendar on the Dakota Conference website: <u>www.dakotaadventist.org/events</u>

Calling all Dakota Pathfinders!

Pastor Ted is seeking vintage Pathfinder memorabilia for the Conference Pathfinder displays. If you have patches, pins, buttons, uniforms, flags, banners, or any other items that you are willing to donate or loan, please contact him directly at the email listed below. He is especially interested in finding patches and pins from before the North Dakota and South Dakota conferences merged.

pathfinders@dakotasda.org

PATHFINDER

Blessed & Kept

May curiosity guide your judgements of others.

May your first instinct be curiosity when you encounter actions that ask for your judgement.

When you hear a rude comment

When someone cuts you off on the road

When someone spouts a conspiracy theory or holds a belief you feel is antithetical to the correct way of thinking

When other people do and say things that warrant your judgement, may you instead resort to curiosity.

May you imagine the most graceful explanation possible for their behavior.

They were up all night with a sick child.

They are rushing to the hospital before a loved one has life threatening surgery. They are scared about the changes they sense are coming.

May you not excuse their actions through this process. Rather may you attempt to understand the complexity of their situation and put their actions in proper context.

With your grace-filled curiosity may you extend active love to those who under normal circumstances would only find your silent judgement.

Written by Casey Bartlett. To follow Casey's Podcast Blessed & Kept click here.

April 13 Dispatch Photo



Photo by Paulette Bullinger, taken in south Bismarck, North Dakota.

If you have local church news or stories to share, please send event information, news suggestions and/or articles, and pictures to: j.dossenko@gmail.com

Dakota Dispatch Mission: To build a climate of encouragement and blessing through the sharing of witnessing and evangelism activities. If you have news to share or would like to be added to the **Dakota Dispatch** mailing list, please email Jodi Dossenko at <u>j.dossenko@gmail.com</u>. Bison <u>Copyright</u>. Cover photo credit: soybean field by Chrystal Rittenbach.

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